

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated June 15, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Response, claims 17, 21, 26, 27 and 31 are amended; claims 20, and 30 are canceled; no new claims are hereby added. Claims 1-16 have previously been withdrawn per the Examiner's Requirement for Election of Species dated September 29, 2004 (Paper No. / Mail Date 09242004) and Applicant's election of Species I (claims 17-26) dated October 29, 2004. Claims 24 and 25 have previously been canceled per Response dated April 11, 2005. Accordingly, claims 1-19, 21-23, 26-29 and 31-34 remain pending. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable claims 20, 21, 26, 30 and 31. Amended claim 17 incorporates the limitations of allowable claim 20 and claim 20 is canceled. Amended claim 27 incorporates the limitations of allowable claim 30 and claim 30 is canceled. Amended claim 26 has been re-written in independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 17.

In the Office Action, claims 17-19, 22-23, 27-29 and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,788,374 B2 (to Ko et al.)(hereinafter "Ko") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,583,836 B2 (to Kim et al.)(hereinafter "Kim").

The rejection of claims 17-19 and 21-23 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 17-19 and 21-23 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recite a combination of elements including, for example, "dielectric protrusions on the common electrode in respective ones of the sub-regions of the pixel region; and a liquid crystal layer between the first and second substrates wherein one of the dielectric protrusions is substantially parallel to the gate line and another of the dielectric protrusions is substantially perpendicular to the gate line." Accordingly, claim 17 and claims 18-19 and 21-23, which depend either directly or indirectly upon claim 17, are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claims 27-29 and 32-33 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 27-29 and 32-33 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recite a combination of elements including, for example, "a common auxiliary electrode

in the pixel region corresponding the periphery of the pixel region and having a crossing portion crossing the pixel region, the crossing portion of the common auxiliary electrode being substantially parallel to the gate lines for the entire length of the crossing portion and dividing the pixel region into at least two sub-regions; electric field inducing windows formed on the common electrode in respective ones of the sub-regions of the pixel region; and a liquid crystal layer between the first and second substrates wherein one of the electric field inducing windows is substantially parallel to the gate line and another of the electric field inducing windows is substantially perpendicular to the gate line.” Accordingly, claim 27 and claims 28-29 and 32-33, which depend either directly or indirectly upon claim 27, are allowable over the cited references.


Applicants believe the foregoing Response places the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: September 15, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Rebecca Goldman Rudich

Registration No.: 41,786

MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP

1900 K Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20006

(202) 496-7500

Attorneys for Applicant

DC:50418366.1